

Katherine (Kay) A. Aaby, MPH, BSN, RN

Kay Aaby is the Nurse Manager for Montgomery County, Maryland's Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program under the Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Aaby received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from California State University and a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from Loma Linda University also in California.

She has worked over twenty-five years in local public health in California, Hawaii, Minnesota and Maryland. While in Hawaii she worked for the Navy Relief Society as a visiting nurse providing home nursing services ranging from newborn six-week assessments to other health care interventions for military families on the island of Oahu. Prior to her current position she was a School Community Health Nurse conducting home visits for pregnant teens and assessment of newborns after discharge from the hospital.

She represented the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) at a congressional staff briefing on Capital Hill speaking about the public health tools and resource for "Cutting-edge Approaches to Bioterrorism Preparedness at Local Public Health Departments." She also serves as a member of NACCHO's Exercise and Evaluation Workgroup and has represented NACCHO in several work groups focusing on antiviral issues and at-risk and vulnerable populations during a pandemic influenza.

Kay has co-authored several articles addressing the issues of Public Health Preparedness. "Embracing Computer Modeling to Address Pandemic Flu in the 21st Century" was published July, 2006 in the Journal of Public Health Management & Practice. Other publications have appeared in issues of Interfaces and the Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved. She is a member of the American Public Health Association.

JoAnne Knapp, MA, BA

JoAnne Knapp is Director of Emergency Preparedness Policy for the Maryland Department of Disabilities. In her role as Director, JoAnne has been instrumental in developing conferences and regional committees designed to share emergency preparedness information with and for individuals with disabilities, emphasizing collaboration with emergency management personnel and other interested entities in the state of Maryland. JoAnne has worked actively with all disability and other special needs groups, including the deaf, blind, mobility impaired and ageing communities. She has presented to numerous organizations in Maryland as well as at conferences outside of Maryland, including Washington, DC and Delaware. JoAnne has been with the Department of Disabilities since December 2003.

Prior to coming to the Department of Disabilities in early 2004, Knapp spent 16 years with United Cerebral Palsy of Central Maryland as Director of Human Resources and then as Chief Administrative Officer. In this position she was responsible for budgeting, finance and accounting, human resources, real estate development and employee training for the 400+ employee organization serving Marylanders with a variety of disabilities.

JoAnne also worked previously for The Rouse Company and was an adjunct Associate Professor at Howard Community College and Catonsville Community College.

She received her Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree from the University of Maryland, College Park and her Master of Arts (MA) degree from The American University in Washington, DC.

JoAnne lives in Ellicott City with her husband and daughter.

Sharon Dezzani Martin, MSN, APRN, BC

Sharon Dezzani Martin is an Associate Professor of Nursing at St. Joseph's College of Maine. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Education from the University of Connecticut, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Kentucky and a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Southern Maine. She is currently a doctoral candidate in the Doctor of Science of Nursing Program at Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in Provo, Utah.

Sharon has worked in home care and nursing administration since the early 1980's and is Certified as Clinical Nurse Specialist in Community Health Nursing. She currently teaches community nursing, leadership and management in the BSN program at St. Joseph's College of Maine.

Her interest in pandemic flu began several years ago resulting in the publication of numerous articles on pandemic flu with the goal of educating and preparing nurses, especially home health nurses, for safer, more effective practice during a pandemic. Her publications have included topics such as an introduction to avian and pandemic flu, care in the home of the person with pandemic flu, the impact of pandemic flu on the home care nurse, common sense approaches to preparing useable home care agency pandemic flu plan, and the potential economic impact of a pandemic with suggestions for home care agency financial survival.

Sharon has been invited to speak at conferences around the United States and has served as expert panelist for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and for the AMA/CDC (American Medical Association/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) on the topic of preparing the home care agency for pandemic flu. She plans on carrying out a research project this Spring 2008 to investigate nurses' knowledge of pandemic flu and factors that affect nurses' willingness to work during a pandemic.

She is a member of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the Maine Nurses Association and Sigma Theta International Honor Society of Nursing.